

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is requested.

Claims 18 and 20 remain in the application and under consideration. Claims 1-17 and 21-38 have been withdrawn from consideration in view of an Election made earlier in the prosecution. Claim 18 has been amended to incorporate the limitations that were in claim 19. Accordingly, claim 19 has been canceled.

Original claims 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Moreton et al. (US 5,835,133). The Examiner identified the elements of Moreton et al. that were considered to correspond to the limitations in original claim 18. With respect to claim 19, the Examiner asserted that the Moreton et al. reference discloses that the objective has more than two recording devices for recording partial images of an original of which the image is to be produced, from more than two different recording directions. The Examiner referred to FIG. 2A to support this conclusion, and specifically identified elements 90a and 90b. The Examiner further referred to the portion of the Moreton et al. reference at col. 5, lines 16-47.

The Moreton et al. reference relates to a stereo camera, that is a camera that produces two pictures. Neither Moreton et al. nor other stereo cameras have more recording devices than necessary for recording stereo images, and hence no more than two recording devices. The Moreton et al. reference has no suggestion of a 3D-camera that has more than two recording devices for recording partial images of an original from more than two different recording directions, with the objective and the recording devices being designed so that more than two partial images are produced on the camera chip in mutually juxtaposed relationship. Hence, it is submitted that the

invention defined by amended claim 18 is not taught or suggested by Moreton et al. and defines patentably over Moreton et al.

Claim 20 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Moreton et al. considered in view of Beste (US3,251,933) and Hankawa et al. (US5,727,239). The Examiner acknowledged that the Moreton et al. reference does not suggest that each recording device has its own front and rear lens. Accordingly, the Examiner turned to Beste in an effort to overcome this deficiency. The Examiner further acknowledged that Beste teaches the use of a common rear lens, but that the combined Moreton et al./Beste teaching does not show that each recording device has its own rear lens. Accordingly, the Examiner turned to Hankawa et al. in an effort to overcome the admitted deficiency of Moreton et al. combined with Beste.

Claim 20 had depended directly from claim 18, and therefore did not include the limitations of claim 19 that have been incorporated into claim 18. It is believed that Beste and Hankawa et al. suffer from the same deficiencies of Moreton et al. In particular, Beste and Hankawa et al. only describe the recording of stereo images. None of these three references suggest a 3D camera where the objective includes more than two recording devices for recording partial images of an original from more than two different recording directions. The combination of these references also does not suggest the 3D camera where the objective and the recording devices are so designed that all of the Moreton et al partial images are produced on the camera chip in mutually juxtaposed relationship. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 20, through its dependency on amended claim 19 is not taught or suggested by Moreton et al. in view of Beste and further in view of Hankawa et al.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the claims remaining in the application are directed to patentable subject matter and allowance is solicited. The Examiner is urged to contact applicants' attorney at the number below to expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Gerald E. Hespos", is written over the typed name.

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